GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4484
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
PAYMENT OF RENT
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH;MOHAN RAWALE;VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Embassy of India in Ukraine had purchased ready-built accommodation in September 1995 for housing its office but did not take up repairs and renovative works to make it usable;

(b) if so, whether having failed to repair the property purchased by them, the Mission hired a property at US$15,000 p.m.;

(c) if so, whether the Mission has obtained the sanction of his Ministry in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total amount of rent paid till date, while keeping the property purchased at Rs. 2.53 crores vacant; and

(f) the action taken against those found guilty in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [SHRI JASWANT SINGH]

(a) (b) (c) & (d) Yes Sir, the Government had purchased a built-up property located at No. 4, Zabily Street in Kiev (Ukraine) for US$800,000 equivalent to Rs. 2.53 crores in September 1995. The repair and renovation work to make the property functional, however, could not commence immediately after the purchase mainly due to:

(i) difficulties encountered in getting required approvals, land registration etc. from the local authorities; and

(ii) the demand from the local government to reduce the size of the plot.

Discrepancy in the structural soundness reports furnished by the local government agencies, call for fresh evaluations and estimations for renovation/reconstruction of the property. The Chancery continues to function from the premises rented in July 1995.It may be mentioned that the Mission hired the said premises under the delegated powers, rental of the property of US$15,000/- p.m. being less than rental paid prior to July 1995 when Chancery operated from a hotel at US$33,000/- p.m.

(e) The total rental paid for the leased premises from August 1995 till 17th November 2001 works out to Rs. 3.7 crores.

(f) The renovation/reconstruction of Government owned properties abroad are taken up keeping in view the local laws and delay in commencing the renovation work may be attributed to discrepancy in structural soundness reports provided by the local Government agencies at different points of time.